



**BOARD BYLINE – Susan Keil, Board President: Freeze the Grease, Save Your Drains!**

Holiday cooking can leave you with grease in your pipes, which will clog them over time. It is so hard to remove fats, oils and grease (FOG) from your pipes that it is better to keep FOG out of the drain in the first place. Use dry clean-up methods to remove FOG from your cooking tools.

Dry clean-up consists of removing food waste by scraping or wiping warm FOG into a paper towel or container, freezing it and tossing it into the trash.

FOG does not break down in water. As it cools the fat hardens and pipe capacity decreases. Either your pipe will need service, or our piping and pumping system will require more frequent maintenance. Backups can be a costly nuisance, so implement best management practices to keep FOG out of your sink and drains.

Feel free to contact OLWS with questions and comments at: 503-654-7765.

***You are invited to attend:***  
**OLWS BOARD MEETINGS!**

All Board Meetings held at:

Oak Lodge Water Services  
Administration Building  
14496 SE River Rd.,  
Oak Grove, OR 97267

\* **NOVEMBER 19 at 6 p.m.**

\* **DECEMBER 17 at 6 p.m.**

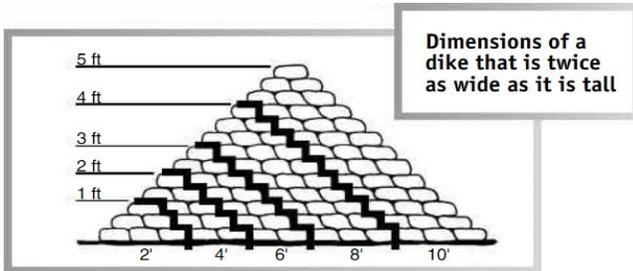
**THIS WINTER, SANDBAGS are available first come first serve from Clackamas Fire District #1 – Station 4 located at 6600 SE Lake Road, Milwaukie, OR 97222. Sandbags are for residential use only. All sites are self-service. Bring your shovel.**

**During flooding events, call ahead to ensure sandbag availability. Call: 503-742-2600.**



**Prevent Winter Flooding:** Clean up your gutters and curbsides regularly to help keep the storm drains

clear. Do not blow leaves into the streets, instead compost them. Clackamas County provides street sweeping services in the OLWS District. Clackamas County also takes inquiries about sites that experience flooding and drainage problems. **For after-hours flooding help, call Clackamas County Non-Emergency Dispatch at (503) 655-8211.**

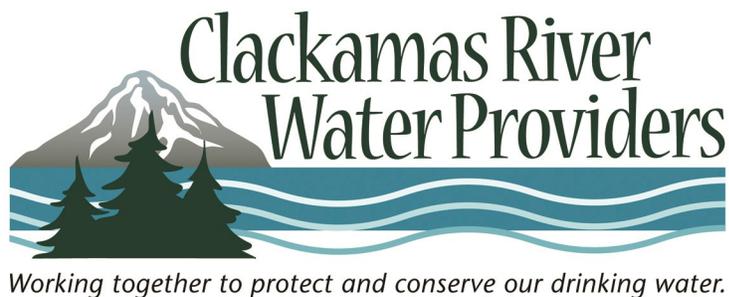


**OAK LODGE WATER SERVICES EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Cold weather is a major cause of breaks in our water and sewer mains and pipes. If you see a water, storm or sewer problem – you may be the first to know about it. Call us 24 hours a day at (503) 654-7765 if you see a water main, fire hydrant, or water service line (between the water meter and the street) that is broken or water gushing up out of either the street, ground, or from a manhole. Use the same number if you notice sewer spills or if you see someone illegally dumping into a storm drain. We appreciate your assistance!

# Winter Water Tips

When water freezes, it expands about 9%. If the temperature of the water in your pipes drops below 32 degrees, even for a short period, you're more likely to have a pipe fracture or worse. If you haven't already done so, here are some simple measures you can take to help avoid the expense and inconvenience of frozen water pipes:



## **Close Crawl Spaces and Vents**

Anywhere cold air blows on a pipe, it creates the potential for freezing. To make sure your pipes are protected from the cold, close the crawl space vents and apply insulation over the openings. Even a tiny hole can let in a lot of cold air.

## **Protect outside pipes and faucets.**

In some homes, the outside faucets and hose bibs have a separate shut-off valve. If this is the case at your home, make sure you turn off the valve to the outside water. Then, disconnect the garden hose and open the faucets to drain water from the pipe. Leave the faucets in the open position, wrap or cover all outside faucets and hose bibs to protect them from the freezing.

## **Winterize the irrigation system.**

Water left in the pipes of your irrigation system can freeze over winter, causing costly damage to the entire system. You owe it to yourself to make an annual habit of winterizing your irrigation system when the summer watering season is over. This means removing the water from the pipes so there's nothing to expand when temperatures dip down below freezing.

## **Open the cupboard doors beneath your sinks.**

When it becomes very, very cold or if your home is not well insulated opening the cupboard doors beneath your sinks will allow warm air to circulate around the pipes and help keep them from freezing. If you're anticipating a deep freeze, consider using a fan to help circulate the air near the pipes, or purchase a small space heater for some extra temporary heat.

## **Allow water to trickle from the faucets.**

In extreme or long-term cold spells, allow the water to trickle from your inside faucets to prevent freezing. Over a 24-hour period this will cost less than 15 cents per faucet.

## **Never turn off the heat when you leave home.**

During the winter, set the temperature to at least 55-60 degrees F, and if you have multiple heat zones, be sure to adjust all thermostats appropriately.

## **Leaving for the winter?**

If you plan to be gone for an extended amount of time this winter call your water provider and have them shut off and lock your water meter. This can prevent excessive water damage if a pipe bursts while you are away.

## **Know where the water shut off is to your house.**

In an emergency, knowing where your home's main water shut off valve is can save you costly damage. These main valves are usually located in the garage, or in a crawlspace where the water line enters the house. Identify the valve by tying a colored piece of yarn or string to it and make sure everyone knows how the valve works.

## **Have emergency telephone numbers handy.**

Despite all best precautions water pipes may still freeze. Keep the number to your local water provider and your plumber posted in a location where everyone can see it in case of an emergency.

For more indoor/outdoor water conservation information and free tools and devices, call the Clackamas River Water Providers at 503-732-3511 or visit our website at [www.clackamasproviders.org](http://www.clackamasproviders.org).